

**Minutes of Meeting
Rushville Historic Board
Tuesday, January 8, 2008
7:30 P.M.**

Roll Call: Chairman Jim Huston called the meeting to order. Members present were Al Hodge, Gary Cameron, Joe Rathz with Joe Davis arriving late. Also present were Mayor Mervyn Bostic and Carla Sharpe, acting secretary in Bill Todd's absence.

Minutes: Motion by Hodge to approve the minutes of December 11, 2007 meeting as presented, seconded by Rathz. Motion carried.

Old Business: Huston reported that there were no petitions for a certificate of appropriateness.

No appeals.

No public comment.

Hodge said the Payne house at 11th and Morgan was approved for an in ground swimming pool in the back yard without coming before this board.

Rathz said he spoke to Todd about that and since it's in the back yard, away from the street and will be covered by a board fence off the right away he didn't feel it was a major issue. It didn't meet the requirements to have to come before us.

Hodge shared with Mayor Bostic the workings of this board.

What we try to concern ourselves on this board is what something looks like from the street, on the outside.

Huston said we do want to retain control over color.

We want to avoid anything that's totally out of character.

The whole intent of the ordinance is to promote appearance within the Historic District that's centered around the turn of the last century. We have plans moving forward to help people do that.

Rathz discussed the approval of the revised district boundaries. The most recent proposed district maps were shared with Mayor Bostic.

The original map that was taken before the City council prior to the ordinance creation included the central business district, the downtown area and everything else in the district. To make it legal, we decided to include the Central Business District. Also, on the eastern edge we've added the Booker T. Washington School. This has to go back to the City Council because this is a rezoning.

The meeting place was discussed. The Booker T. Washington center has been offered to us for our meetings on Tuesday's at 7:30 P.M.

Rathz made a motion to change the meeting locations to the Booker T. Washington Community Center. Hodge seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting time change will be discussed when the new member comes on board.

Hodge asked Davis to speak to a concerned citizen who is mad about the letter she got. Huston will talk to her and try to explain the workings of this board.

New Business:

Huston said he would like to set forth some goals for the New Year.

- 1) Facilitate the rapprochement between the owners of the bank building at 2nd and Main and the vacant lot that used to be Winkerby's. An outstanding job has been made to restore the building and the vacant wall to the West remains open to the weather and is comprised of interior brick which is subject to melting in the rain. Would like to set down and talk to these people in a non confrontational circumstance and make some peace to get the wall repaired. Mayor Bostic will talk to City Attorney concerning this matter to see if there are any ordinances or laws to help these people.
- 2) Identify one low cost funding source available to property owners within the district by virtue of the fact that they are in a historic district and focus on residential property owners. Wayne Goodman has information on funding for commercial properties and by working through landmarks we can identify some sources for residential property owners.
- 3) Work with the Library Board and the City Administration on the Carter Lanning Building.
- 4) Move forward to bring Bob Yapp to town. He is a Restoration Expert. Directs Danville Illinois Historic Renovation program. Has a great deal of knowledge of renovating old properties and significantly about funding. Would like to have him here to give a couple of work shops. Hodge suggested getting a grant through the Community Foundation for this program.
- 5) Identify property owners in the Historic District. Talk to Todd concerning GIS to see if this can be done.

Due to Cameron's term expiring the board discussed possible replacements. Huston suggested Bill Goins who is a member of the Historic Society and lives in the Historic District. Hodge suggested talking to Judge Harcourt to get someone with a Historic background. Mayor Bostic suggested Faith Mock as she has shown interest in serving on a board. Bostic said he would hope to have a new member by the next meeting.

Adjourn: Davis moved to adjourn meeting at 8:15 p.m. Cameron seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Jim Huston, Board Chairman

Carla Sharpe, Acting Secretary

